

MEDICAL MARIJUANA/CANNABIS TASK FORCE

MEETING SUMMARY FOR FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2003 @ 12 NOON

EXECUTIVE COMPLEX - 5TH FLOOR 1010 SECOND AVENUE

For Information contact Ed Plank (236-6433).

Attendees:

The following Task Force members were in attendance: Acting Chair: Jerry Meier, St. Clair Adams, Larry Chaidez, Michael Bartelmo and Mike Barbee.

Staff: Lisa Foster, Staajabu Heshimu, Cesar Solis and Ed Plank.

The Chair noted that a quorum was not present, therefore the Task Force could not take action on items.

RFP Update

The Chair noted that a meeting was needed to discuss the most recent draft of the Verification Card Provider RFP and set the meeting at 12 noon on May 30th. Ed Plank to determine location.

Fund-Raising Efforts

Chair noted that he had spoken with two publications who were running articles on the Task Force fund raising effort underway for the Verification Card Program. These publications included the Update and the Gay and Lesbian Times. These generated some phone calls expressing interest in assisting with fund raising.

Daniel Weinberg, the City's Director of Giving, informed the chair that he was in discussions with a couple of potential donors who had expressed interest in providing financial support to the Verification Card Program.

Chair mentioned completing an on line grant application (on behalf of the Human Dignity Foundation) to the George Soros Foundation who supports a number of national and international initiatives addressing human rights and human dignity issues. Jerry was awaiting any response from this application.

It was mentioned that a Palms Spring fund raiser was held and raised approximately \$100 for the Verification Card effort.

Sub-Committee Reports

St Clair indicated the subcommittee had discussed a process for incorporating the Council approved Possession and Cultivation Guidelines into the Police Department's guidelines. It was proposed that a letter be sent to the Police Chief conveying Task Force input. The Task Force

concurred with this approach.

Lisa Foster provided an update regarding the processing of the Possession and Cultivation Guidelines. She indicated that the language needs to be incorporated into the existing Ordinance. This would involve docketing the Ordinance before the City Council, with a second reading necessary a minimum of two weeks later. She indicated that based on discussions with the Mayor's Office, the item could be docketed prior to the summer recess in August, however this schedule needs to be firmed up given other items competing for docket dates.

There were comments regarding the need for a standardized doctor's "recommendation" letter. Cesar Solis indicated such a form letter would be helpful and could lead to quicker verification by field officers. It was suggested that this be referred to the Patient/Doctor Subcommittee for further consideration.

There were comments on the most efficient way to access the City website... staff suggested the medical marijuana be typed into the search field on the City website for fastest access. The Chair noted that he had provided input on adding a "Frequently Asked Questions" section. Some Task Force members indicated that they had not received the email of the proposed changes to the website. Ed Plank was to email the updated version to those members.

New Business

No new business

Public Comment Topics

There was a comment regarding the costs of voice response systems

Comment requesting Task Force pursuing change in federal law

Comment offering participation with subcommittee activity

Comment regarding hash (THC) being legal for medicinal use. Cesar Solis noted that for now the Police department does recognize it as a Prop 215 medication... it was noted that THC is treated separately under criminal law

It was suggested that the Task Force take a look at the strategy for long term membership depending on the work plan to be pursued

It was noted that the District Attorney has appointed Damon Mosler to handle Medical Cannabis issues. The Task Force was encouraged to reach out to Mr. Mosler.